

DAY LEAD BAKER

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WASHINGTON, NOV. 20 (UPI)--FORMER SENATE AIDE ROBERT G. (BOBBY) BAKER SAYS REPORTS HE WAS INVOLVED IN A MOVE TO HELP RETURN JUAN BOSCH TO THE PRESIDENCY OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC ARE "COMPLETE POPPYCOCK."

BAKER DENIED YESTERDAY HE HAD BEEN SEEKING TO GET FINANCIAL BACKING FOR BOSCH, WHO WAS DEPOSED IN 1963 AND EXILED. THE FORMER SENATE EMPLOYEE SAID HE "NEVER CONTRIBUTED A NICKEL" TO HELP BOSCH AND WAS NOT INVOLVED IN DOMINICAN AFFAIRS.

THE DENIAL WAS MADE IN A TELEPHONE INTERVIEW FROM LOS ANGELES IN REPLY TO A PUBLISHED REPORT BAKER WAS NAMED BY THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY (CIA) AS POSSIBLY WORKING WITH BOSCH'S FINANCIAL BACKERS BEFORE LAST APRIL'S REVOLT IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.

WHILE HE SAID HE HAD NOT BEEN INVOLVED IN DOMINICAN POLITICAL AFFAIRS, BAKER DID SAY THAT "I DO HAVE SOME IDEAS ABOUT HOW STUPID WE'VE BEEN IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, HOWEVER." HE INDICATED HE MIGHT HAVE MORE TO SAY ON THE SUBJECT WHEN HE RETURNS TO WASHINGTON NEXT WEEK.

THE REPORT WHICH LINKED BAKER TO BOSCH SAID THAT IN SECRET TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE THOMAS C. MANN HAD CITED A CIA REPORT.

MANN REPORTEDLY SAID HE THOUGHT THE REPORT, MADE ON MARCH 18, 1965, INCLUDED INFORMATION THAT BAKER WAS WORKING WITH DIEGO BODAS AND JOSE BENITEZ TO HELP BOSCH.

BAKER SAID IT WAS NO SECRET THAT BOTH BODAS AND BENITEZ WERE FRIENDS OF HIS. DURING THE SENATE INVESTIGATION WHICH FOLLOWED BAKER'S RESIGNATION AS SECRETARY TO SENATE DEMOCRATS, IT WAS TESTIFIED THAT HE AND BODAS HAD BEEN PARTNERS IN A DEAL TO IMPORT MEAT FROM HAITI TO PUERTO RICO AND THE UNITED STATES.

"I NEVER HAD ANY BUSINESS DEALS WITH BODAS," BAKER SAID. "I MET JUAN BOSCH ONLY TWICE IN MY LIFE. ONCE WAS AFTER HIS ELECTION AND BEFORE HE WAS SWORN IN AS PRESIDENT..."

"I VISITED HIM FOR A COUPLE OF HOURS IN NEW YORK AND IT WAS ENTIRELY SOCIAL. LATER I WAS AT HIS INAUGURATION AT BODAS' INVITATION..."

"I NEVER HAD ANY BUSINESS RELATIONS IN THE WORLD WITH HIM...SO FAR AS ANY INVOLVEMENT BY ME DOWN THERE, IT'S RIDICULOUS. IT IS COMPLETE POPPYCOCK."

BAKER ADDED THAT BODAS, WHO HAD SERVED IN THE BOSCH CABINET, WAS A CLOSE PERSONAL FRIEND OF HIS. "I HAD MANY DOMINICAN FRIENDS BECAUSE OF BODAS," THE SOUTH CAROLINIAN SAID. "HE WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO HAD THE GUTS TO MAKE THE BOSCH GOVERNMENT WORK."


THE REPORT OF MANN'S TESTIMONY WAS CARRIED YESTERDAY IN THE LOS ANGELES TIMES. THE PAPER SAID THAT MANN WAS QUESTIONED ABOUT BAKER'S POSSIBLE INVOLVEMENT BY SEN. BOURKE HICKENLOOPER, R-IOWA.

HICKENLOOPER AND SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN J. WILLIAM FULBRIGHT, D-ARK., BOTH REFUSED TO MAKE ANY COMMENT ON THE REPORT.

THE STATE DEPARTMENT SAID THAT THE SECRET TESTIMONY BY U.S. OFFICIALS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON THE DOMINICAN SITUATION WOULD BE MADE PUBLIC ONLY AT THE COMMITTEE'S ORDER. THAT WOULD NOT BE UNTIL "AFTER A SUFFICIENT NUMBER OF YEARS TO MAKE IT OF HISTORICAL INTEREST ONLY," A SPOKESMAN SAID.

BAKER RESIGNED HIS \$19,600-A-YEAR SENATE JOB IN 1963 FOLLOWING

BAKER RESIGNED HIS \$19,600-A-YEAR SENATE JOB IN 1963 FOLLOWING DISCLOSURES ABOUT HIS BUSINESS AFFAIRS. HIS ACTIVITIES WERE CRITICIZED BY SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE AFTER AN INVESTIGATION THAT DRAGGED ON UNTIL THIS YEAR.


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